



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Nobuo HIRAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Application No.: 10/807,257

Examiner: D. BOLLINGER

Filed: March 24, 2004

Docket No.: 119254

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND PLATEN USED THEREIN

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed January 5, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, Figures 1-11. Applicants submit that claims 1-23, 27, 30, 35, 42 and 43 read on elected Species I. Claims 1, 2, 22, 23, 27, 30 and 35 are generic to all Species. The provisional election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 5, 2007

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